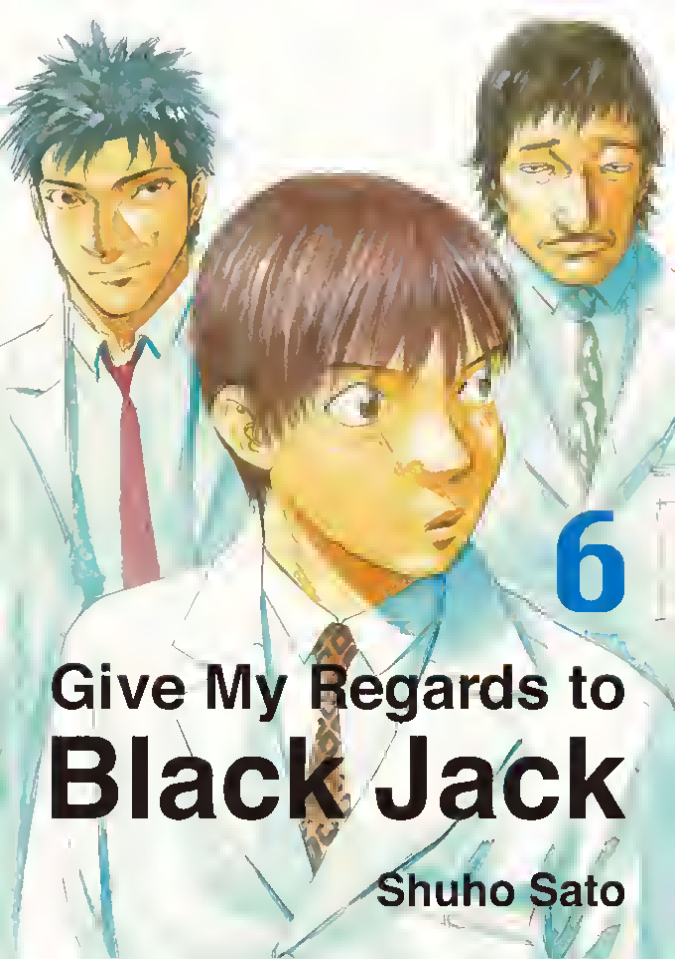

6
Give My Regards to
Black Jack
Shuho Sato

Give My Regards to Black Jack

Ep. 49 Normal Response

Ep. 50 Japan's No. 1 Drug

Ep. 51 The Inevitable Outcome

Ep. 52 Weakening Sensation

Ep. 53 A Doctor's Job

Ep. 54 The Other Saito

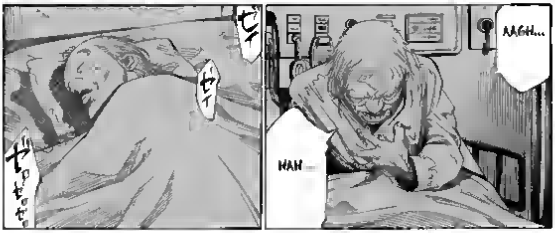
Ep. 55 The First Patient

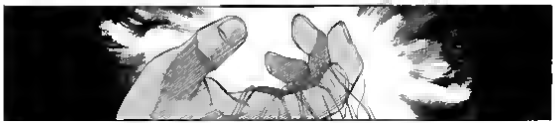
Ep. 56 What Do You Really Want?

Ep. 57 Something Overlooked

Ep. 58 Second-Person, Third-Person

Soon you'll understand
Ooh...
urrrgh
URP!
URP
URP

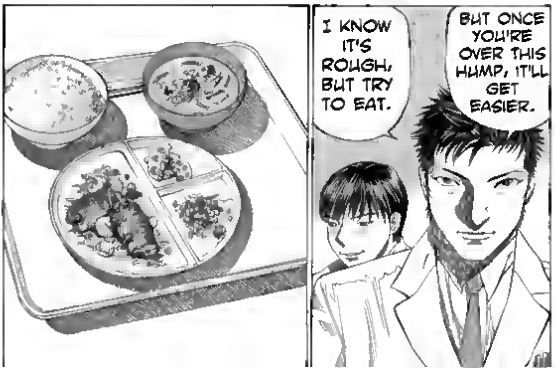

セイ
セイ
セイセイセイ
AAGH...
HAH...



how Mrs. Tsujimoto's beliefs are vital to her treatment.
Soon you'll understand.
Urghz
セイ

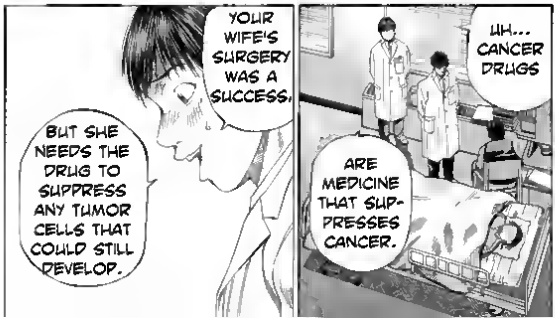
#49
Normal Response

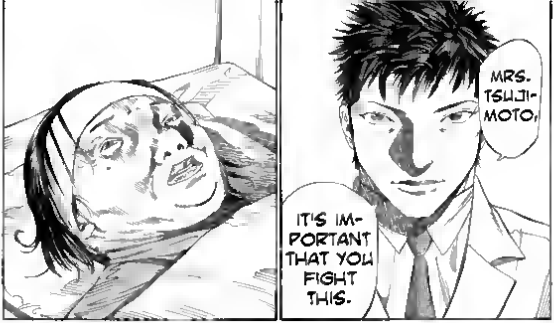
I SEE.
SO SOME SIDE EFFECTS HAVE KICKED IN...


I KNOW IT'S ROUGH, BUT TRY TO EAT.
BUT ONCE YOU'RE OVER THIS HUMP, IT'LL GET EASIER.

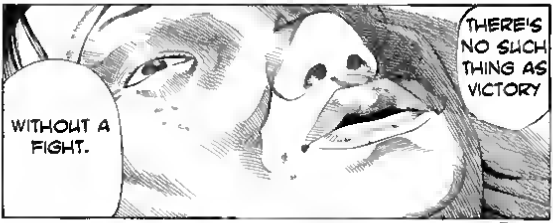
WHAT DO YOU THINK,
DR. SAITO?
UM...
DOES SHE HAVE TO TAKE THAT CANCER DRUG?

ME?


YOUR WIFE'S SURGERY WAS A SUCCESS.
BUT SHE NEEDS THE DRUG TO SUPPRESS ANY TUMOR CELLS THAT COULD STILL DEVELOP.
UH... CANCER DRUGS
ARE MEDICINE THAT SUPPRESSES CANCER.

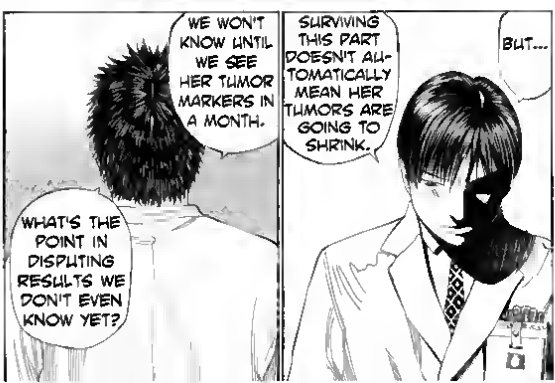

MRS. TSUJIMOTO,
IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU FIGHT THIS.

IF YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO OVERCOME THIS SUFFERING,
YOUR CANCER WILL SURELY IMPROVE.

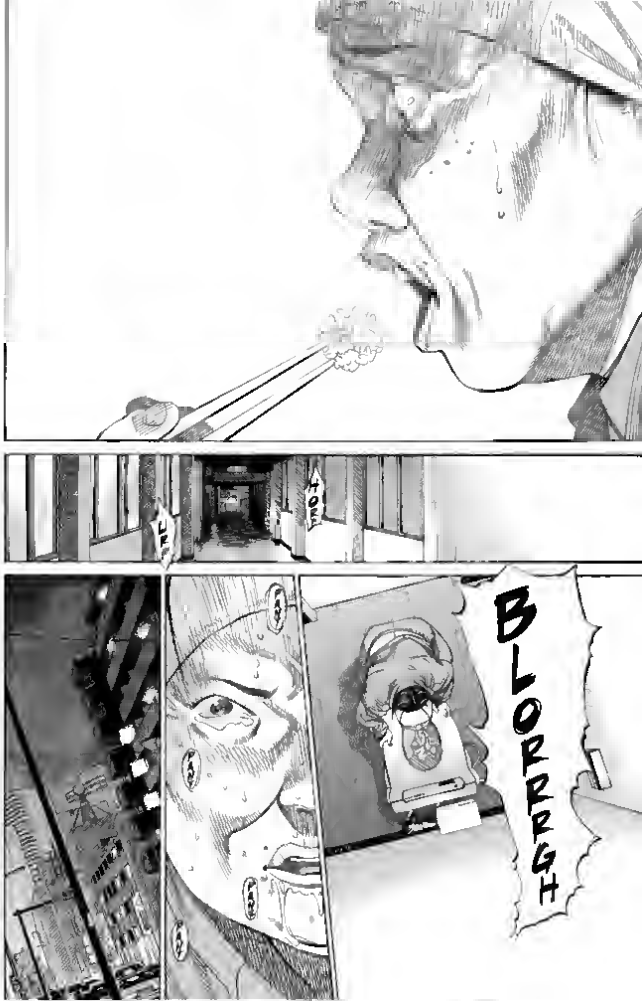

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS VICTORY
WITHOUT A FIGHT.

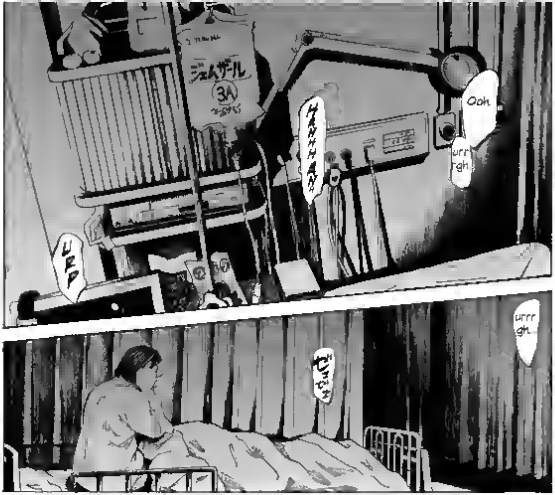
EVERYONE WHO'S RECOVERED FROM CANCER
REALLY BATTLED IT.

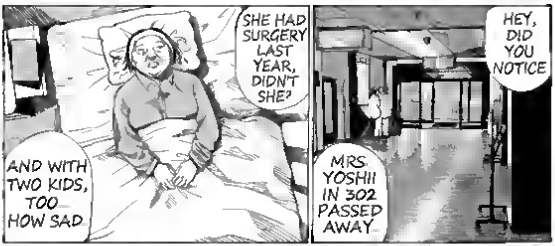
NOW DO YOU SEE?
HOW IMPORTANT MRS. TSUJIMOTO'S ATTITUDE IS?


WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL WE SEE HER TUMOR MARKERS IN A MONTH.
WHAT'S THE POINT IN DISPUTING RESULTS WE DON'T EVEN KNOW YET?
SURVIVING THIS PART DOESN'T AUTOMATICALLY MEAN HER TUMORS ARE GOING TO SHRINK.
BUT...

GEMZAR ...
THE GEMZAR WILL WORK, RIGHT?
IT BETTER.
THAT'S OUR ONLY HOPE.

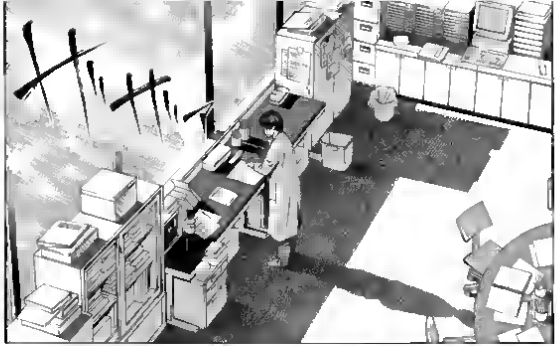

BLORRRGH
HOE
UF


Ooh.
urrr ugh.
HHHHH!!
HEP
urrr ugh.


SHE HAD SURGERY LAST YEAR, DIDN'T SHE?
AND WITH TWO KIDS, TOO... HOW SAD
HEY, DID YOU NOTICE
MRS. YOSHII IN 302 PASSED AWAY...

your cancer will surely improve
If you have the courage to overcome this suffering,

Everyone who's recovered from cancer
really battled it.
THE NEXT ONE WILL START IN THREE DAYS. HANG IN THERE.
THAT'S ONE ROUND OF CANCER DRUGS COMPLETED.
TOUGH
JJ

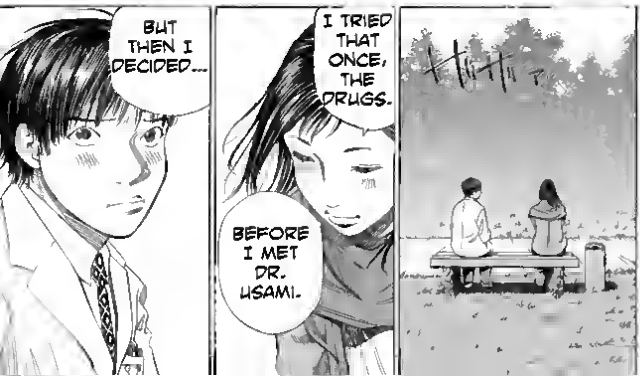


RUSTLE

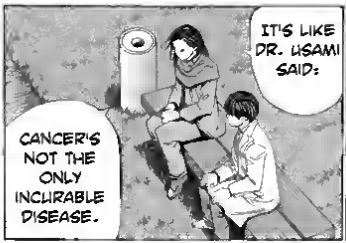
I SEE YOU CAN WALK AGAIN.
I WON'T BE AROUND MUCH LONGER...

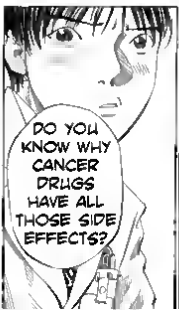
DEATH COMES FOR EVERY-ONE.
THE ONLY THING WE CAN CONTROL IS HOW WE DIE.

I KNOW WHAT I DON'T WANT.
DYING AFTER THE TORMENT OF A DRUG THAT MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT WORK.

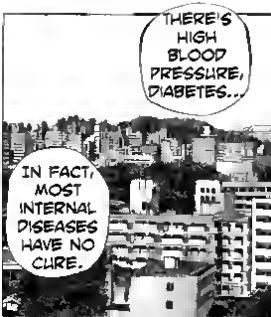

BUT THEN I DECIDED...
I TRIED THAT ONCE, THE DRUGS.
BEFORE I MET DR. USAMI.

I WOULD LIVE WITH CANCER.

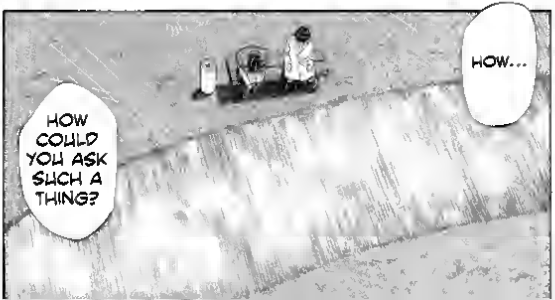

CANCER'S NOT THE ONLY INCURABLE DISEASE.
IT'S LIKE DR. USAMI SAID:

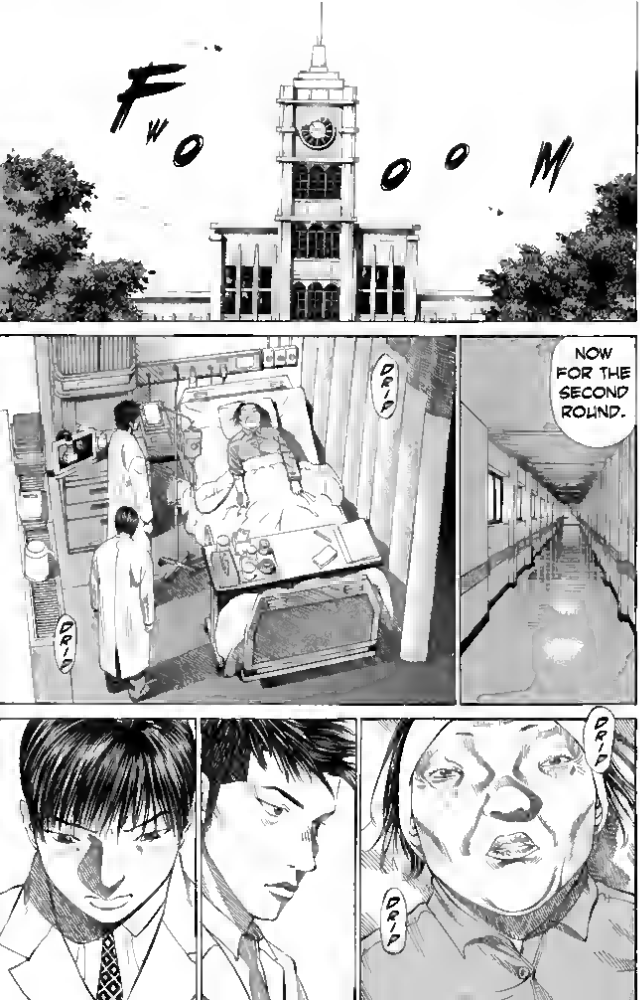

DO YOU KNOW WHY CANCER DRUGS HAVE ALL THOSE SIDE EFFECTS?

WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LEARN HOW TO GET ALONG WITH THEM.

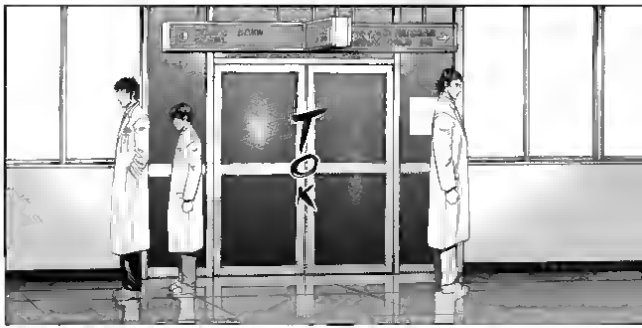

THERE'S HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, DIABETES...
IN FACT, MOST INTERNAL DISEASES HAVE NO CURE.

IN MY CASE, CANCER DRUGS WOULD ONLY BUY ME A FEW MORE MONTHS.
HENCE THE SIDE EFFECTS.
THEY DON'T JUST GO AFTER TUMOR CELLS--THEY ATTACK NORMAL CELLS, TOO.
WHEN SIDE EFFECTS HAVE TORN YOUR BODY TO SHREDS?
WHAT'S THE POINT IN LIVING A FEW MORE MONTHS
AFRAID?
AREN'T YOU...


HOW...
HOW COULD YOU ASK SUCH A THING?

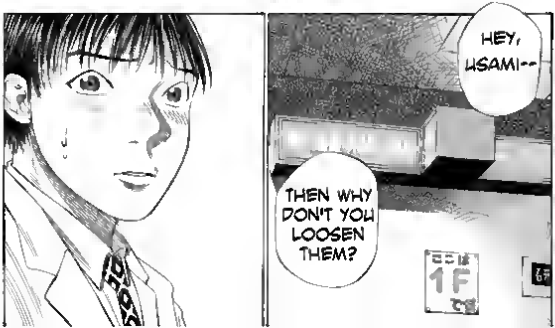

FWOOOM
DRIP
DRIP
NOW FOR THE SECOND ROUND.
DRIP
DRIP

TOK
TOK
TOK
TOK


TOK

SEVERE SIDE EFFECTS ...
UNPROM-ISING RESULTS ...
SAITO?
SEE THAT.

THAT'S CANCER DRUGS FOR YOU.


HEY, USAMI--
THEN WHY DON'T YOU LOOSEN THEM?
1F

WHY DON'T YOU LOOSEN
THE TIES ON MY HANDS?

SHOJI,
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU FOR THIS.

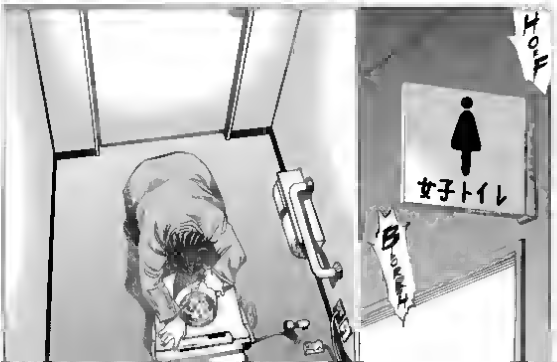
#50
Japan's No. 1 Drug

Dr. Shoji
And what did he mean,
There he is
"loosen the ties on my hands"?
What's he thinking about?

Is there really
nothing I can do?
I thought I'd have some tea,
but once it was in front of me,
it smelled like gasoline, and I couldn't drink it
So I settled for water instead
But even that
It made me feel sick, and I threw up

BUT SOMETIMES, WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW CAN HURT YOU!
LADIES, DID YOU KNOW?
THIS WORLD IS FULL OF THINGS WE'RE BETTER OFF NOT KNOWING

ハたっ
ハたっ


H○F
女子トイレ
B○○M

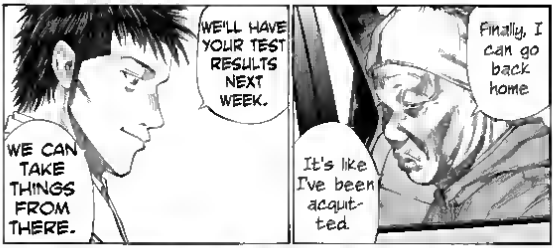
GEMZAR
DRIP
DRIP

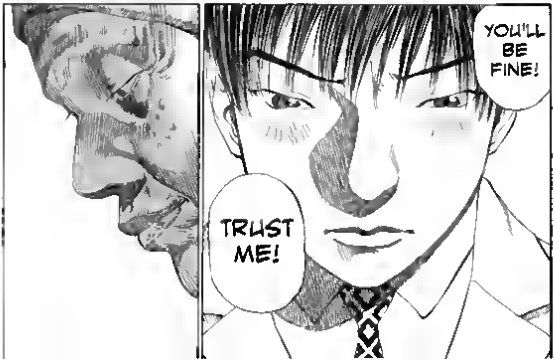
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP

It's snowing

カァー
カァー
カァー
カァー

YOU'VE DONE A GREAT JOB.
THAT'S ALL FIVE ROUNDS COMPLETED!

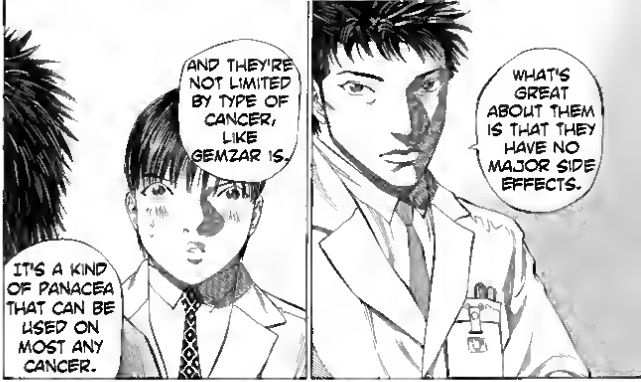

WE'LL HAVE YOUR TEST RESULTS NEXT WEEK.
WE CAN TAKE THINGS FROM THERE.
Finally, I can go back home
It's like I've been acquitted.

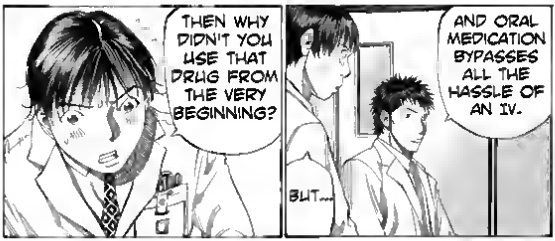

YOU'LL BE FINE!
TRUST ME!

NOW WE JUST PRAY THAT THE GEMZAR'S WORKING.
SPRING ALREADY...
TAP
TAP
TAP
ELAS-TASE-1 IS AT 4800.
RESULTS OF THE MARKER TEST HAVE JUST COME IN.
DOC-TOR?

SPAN-1 LEVELS ARE UP TO 213, EH?
YES, SIR.
HER TUMOR. ..
IT'S GOTTEN BIGGER, HASN'T IT.
LOOKS LIKE GEMZAR WASN'T A GOOD FIT FOR MRS. TSUJIMOTO'S CANCER AFTER ALL.
YEAH.

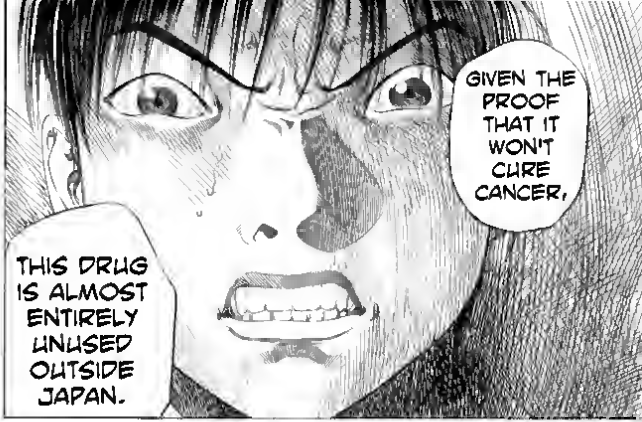
I'M DISCON-TINUING TREAT-MENT
WITH GEMZAR.
NOW WHA ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
YOU SAID THERE'S NO OTHER OPTION IF GEMZAR DIDN'T WORK.
SOME ARE WORLD FAMOUS, IN THE TOP FIVE FOR GLOBAL SALES.
FLUORO-URACIL--BASED ORAL CANCER DRUGS--
WE'LL SWITCH TO AN ORAL MEDICA-TION.

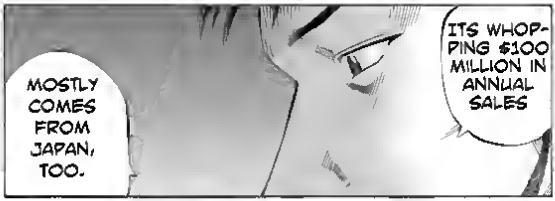

AND THEY'RE NOT LIMITED BY TYPE OF CANCER, LIKE GEMZAR IS.
WHAT'S GREAT ABOUT THEM IS THAT THEY HAVE NO MAJOR SIDE EFFECTS.
IT'S A KIND OF PANACEA THAT CAN BE USED ON MOST ANY CANCER.


THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU USE THAT DRUG FROM THE VERY BEGINNING?
AND ORAL MEDICATION BYPASSES ALL THE HASSLE OF AN IV.
BUT....

BECAUSE IT DOESN'T CURE CANCER.

LITTLE HOPE FOR REMISSION IS THE TRADE-OFF FOR FEW SIDE EFFECTS.
THAT'S WHY IT CAN BE USED ON MOST KINDS OF CANCER.
AND YOU'D GIVE IT TO MRS. TSUJIMOTO?
IT'S COVERED BY INSURANCE, IT'S GOT GOVERNMENT APPROVAL...
Remission: The absence of measurable tumor cells
THE DRUG MOST FREQUENTLY USED IN TREATING CANCER IN JAPAN
IS THIS ONE.
LETS US JUSTIFY OURSELVES TO PATIENTS BY SAYING,
"WE'RE WORKING HARD TO CURE YOU."
IT MAKES A GOOD EXCUSE FOR US DOCTORS, TOO.


GIVEN THE PROOF THAT IT WON'T CURE CANCER,
THIS DRUG IS ALMOST ENTIRELY UNUSED OUTSIDE JAPAN.


ITS WHOPPING $100 MILLION IN ANNUAL SALES
MOSTLY COMES FROM JAPAN, TOO.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!?

YOU TELL THE PATIENT WHAT YOU HAVE TO, BUT LEAVE OUT THE TRUTH.
YOU DON'T KNOW IF IT'S METASTASIZED BUT YOU OPERATE ANYWAY.
YOU UNI-LATERALLY START HER ON DRUG THERAPY,
ALL THE WHILE SAYING THE SURGERY WAS A SUCCESS.
AND WHEN THAT CANCER DRUG DOESN'T WORK,
YOU DECIDE TO TRICK HER INTO TAKING ANOTHER ONE!?

I'VE DONE ALL I CAN DO.
WHAT ELSE DO YOU SUGGEST?
YOU CAN'T USE AN UNAPPROVED DRUG?
BUT
NO, I CAN'T.
THERE'S ONE OUT THERE, RIGHT?

YOU REALLY WANT TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS AGAIN?

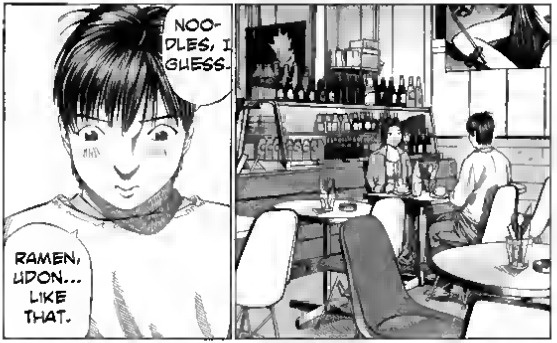
slap
YESSIR...
THOSE ARE THE RULES.
I CAN'T USE IT.

WHOOSH

WE'RE DONE USING THE GEMZAR NOW.
I SEE.
YOU'LL START TAKING THESE PILLS INSTEAD.
IT'S ANOTHER KIND OF CANCER DRUG.
THIS IS KIND OF A JUST-IN-CASE MEDICINE.
YOU DON'T NEED THAT GEMZAR ANYMORE.

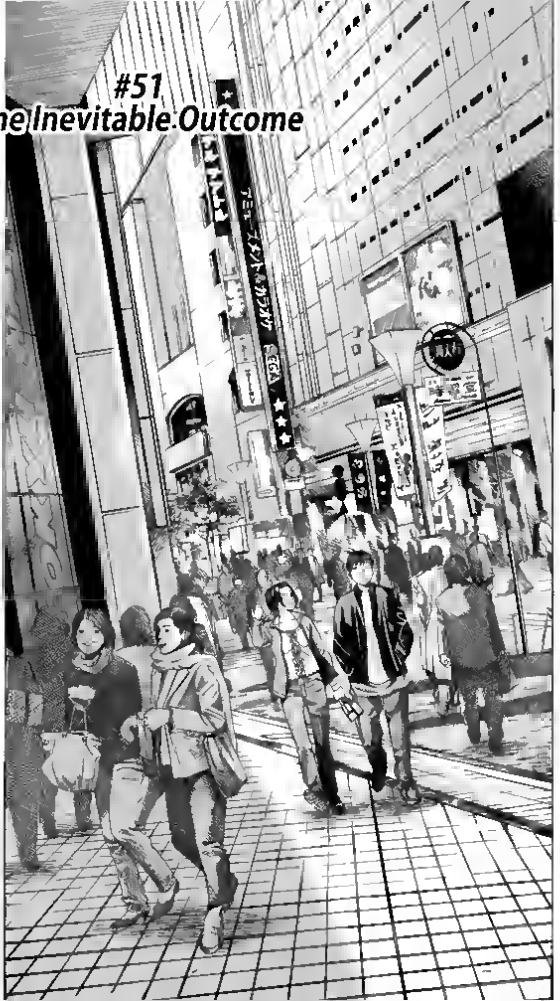
Give up.
People suffer
because they have hope.
But if you give up entirely,
you won't have to worry.

PELLEGRINO
PELLEGRINO
MY FAVORITE FOOD?
HUH?

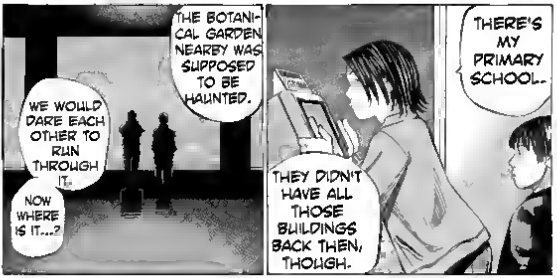

NOO-DLES, I GUESS.
RAMEN, UDON... LIKE THAT.

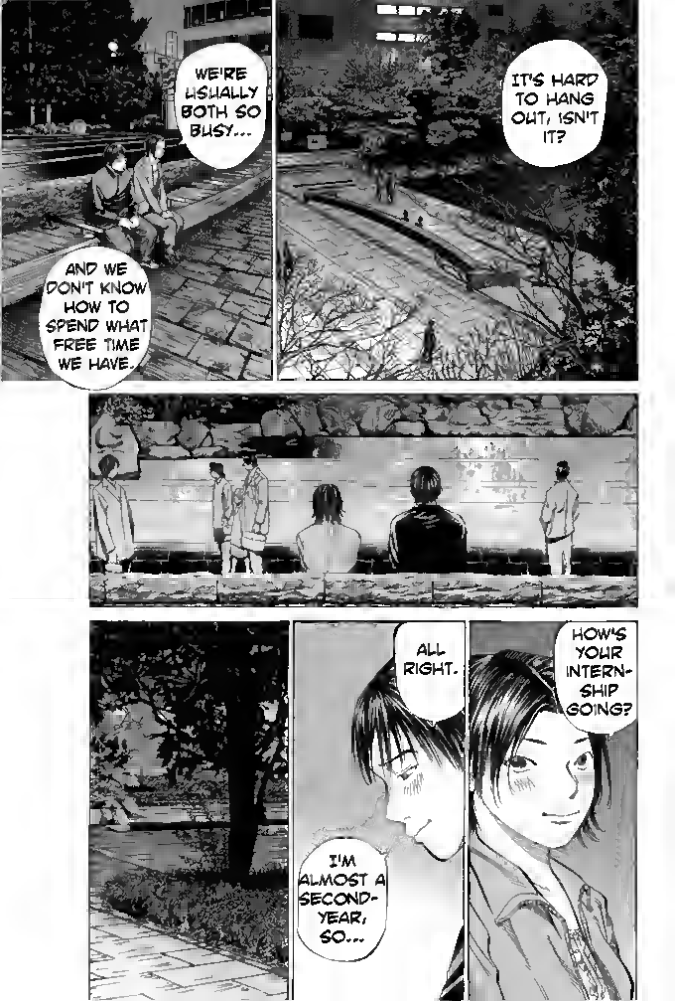
THE SIM-PLER KIND, ALMOST LIKE HOME-MADE.
BUT NOT THE RICH STUFF YOU SEE ON TV--

I'LL HAVE TO MAKE SOME FOR YOU ONE DAY.


#51
The Inevitable Outcome

Right now,
I'm watching a movie with Miss Minakawa.
I invited her.
SHUT YOUR FAAAAP!
BANG BANG BANG
ONE WORD FOR "GANGSTER" IS WRITTEN "THE ULTIMATE ROAD."
FITTING. LOOKS LIKE THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE FOR YOU!
I think
I'd like to enjoy life more.
I've been doing more part-time shift work lately,
so money's not an issue.


THE BOTANICAL GARDEN NEARBY WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HAUNTED.
WE WOULD DARE EACH OTHER TO RUN THROUGH IT.
NOW WHERE IS IT...?
THERE'S MY PRIMARY SCHOOL.
THEY DIDN'T HAVE ALL THOSE BUILDINGS BACK THEN, THOUGH.


WE'RE USUALLY BOTH SO BUSY...
AND WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO SPEND WHAT FREE TIME WE HAVE.
IT'S HARD TO HANG OUT, ISN'T IT?
ALL RIGHT.
HOW'S YOUR INTERN-SHIP GOING?
I'M ALMOST A SECOND-YEAR, SO...

HE'S FINE. WE ALL ARE.
THE TWIN WITH DOWN SYNDROME WENT HOME.
HOW'S DR. TAKASAGO?
AND REMEMBER HIS PARENTS? THE TANABES?
THEY'VE RECONCILED AND ARE RAISING THEIR SON TOGETHER.
MY PATIENT IS A WOMAN IN HER 40S, MRS. TSUJIMOTO.
HER PANCREATIC CANCER HAS MOVED INTO HER LUNGS, AND CANCER DRUGS DIDN'T WORK.
OH...
THAT'S TERRIBLE.

UM...
CAN I HOLD YOUR HAND?
TALK ABOUT A SURPRISE--
TO THINK YOU'D BE THE ONE CALLING ME UP TO GO OUT!
HUH?
WHY?
WELL, UH...

WHY DID YOU WANT TO HOLD MY HAND?

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT THAT PATIENT OF YOURS?

OR DID YOU THINK I'D BE A SURE BET TO COME WITH YOU?

SO YOU JUST WANTED AN ESCAPE FROM REALITY?
THAT'S NOT IT.
NO, NOT AT ALL!

THEN WHY?

BE-
CAUSE
I LOVE
YOU.

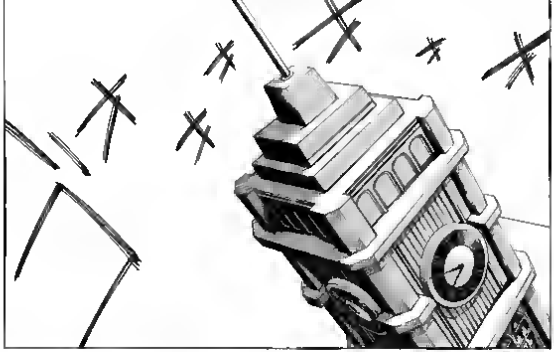
HUH?
CAN
I...
CAN I
SPEND
THE
NIGHT?

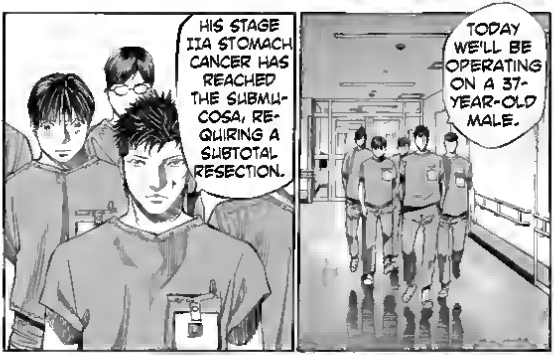
6of
OH, DOCTOR!
...
Mrs. Tsuji-moto!

I MEANT TO GIVE YOU A PROPER THANK-YOU.
I NEVER COULD BACK IN THE HOSPITAL--I WAS IN SUCH A BAD WAY.
OH, MY!
WHAT A CUTE GIRL-FRIEND YOU HAVE!
SO MANY CHORES PILED UP WHILE I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL...
THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING.
I'VE GOTTEN SO MUCH BETTER, I ONLY HAVE TO TAKE A FEW PILLS!
No—
You're only taking pills because there's noth-ing else available

THIS WOMAN IS DYING
IN COMPLETE IGNORANCE!

PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT



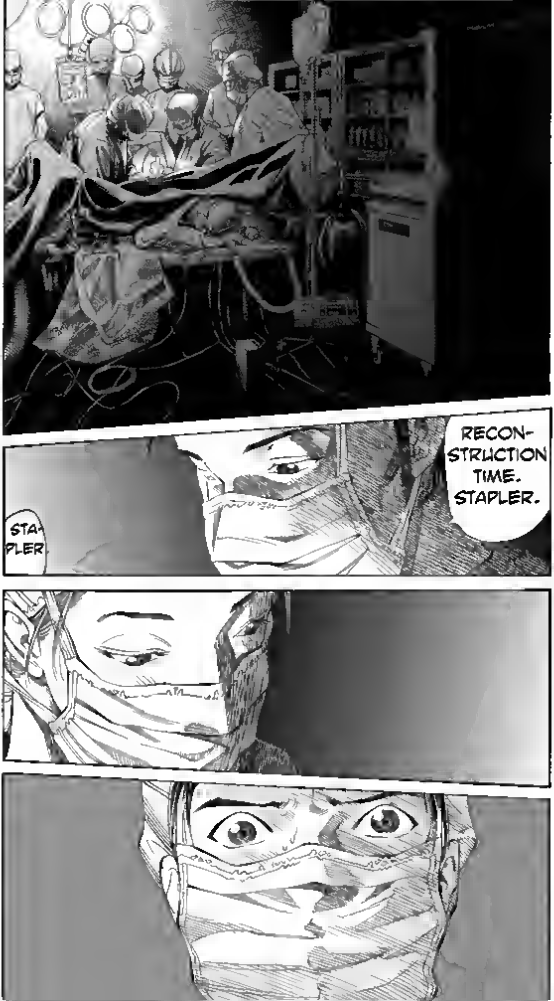

HIS STAGE IIA STOMACH CANCER HAS REACHED THE SUBMUCOSA, REQUIRING A SUBTOTAL RESECTION.
TODAY WE'LL BE OPERATING ON A 37-YEAR-OLD MALE.

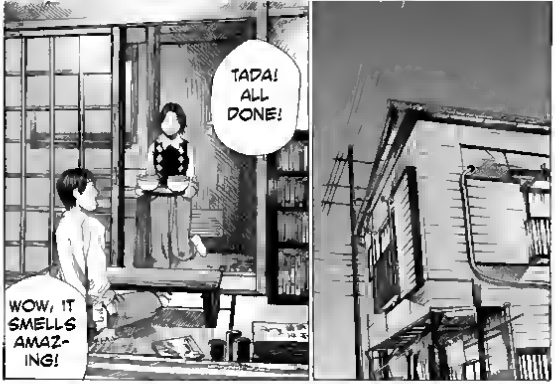
I'm right.
Nothing is incorrect.

Nothing is incorrect!
I'm right!
OPERATING ROOM
WHIRR

GOOD MORNING.

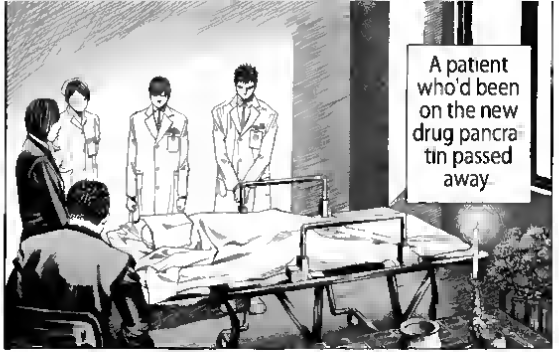
THANKS IN ADVANCE.
MORN-ING.

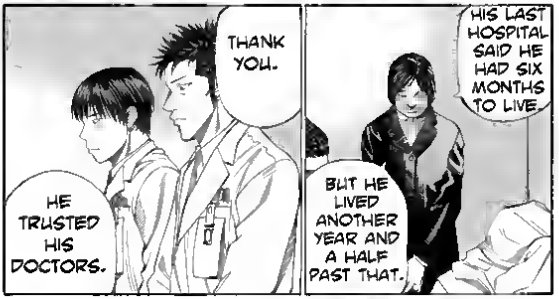

RECON-
STRUCTION
TIME.
STAPLER.
STA-
PLER


TADA! ALL DONE!
WOW, IT SMELLS AMAZ-ING!

YOU THINK SO?
THAT'S GREAT!
THIS IS REALLY TASTY.
PSOO
PSOO

MID-MARCH.
MY INTERN-SHIP IN 4TH SURGERY WILL SOON BE DRAWING TO A CLOSE.

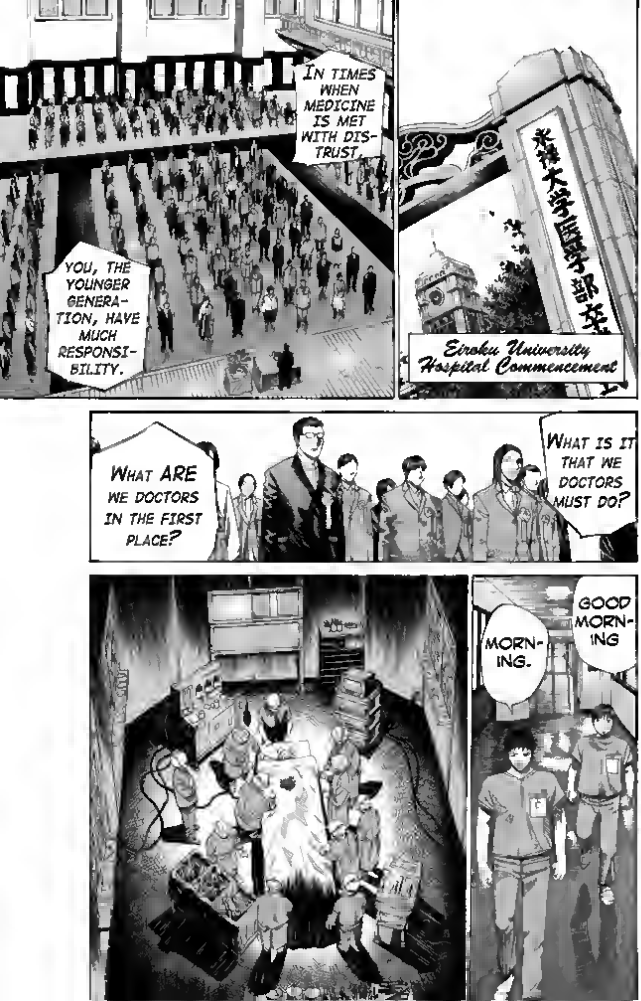

A patient who'd been on the new drug pancratin passed away.


THANK YOU.
HE TRUSTED HIS DOCTORS.
HIS LAST HOSPITAL SAID HE HAD SIX MONTHS TO LIVE.
BUT HE LIVED ANOTHER YEAR AND A HALF PAST THAT.

I can't really say
After all,
If he went from having six months left to having two years,
how much meaning did those two years have for him?

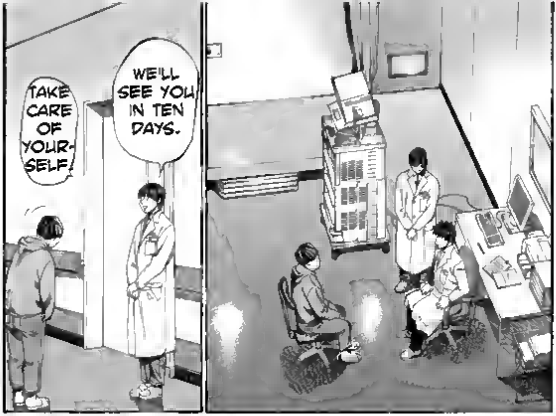
#52
Weakening Sensation

Now I'm satisfied...
I SURE HOPE WE'LL BE OKAY.
HUH?
THEY SAY BAD THINGS COME IN THREES.
THREE WEEKS,
THIRD MONTH, THIRD YEAR...
UH, EIJIRO, I GUESS.
HEY, WHAT DOES YOUR FAMILY CALL YOU?
THEN I'LL CALL YOU EIJIRO, TOO.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "HUH"
LISTEN WHEN SOME-ONE'S TALKING!


IN TIMES WHEN MEDICINE IS MET WITH DISTRUST.
YOU, THE YOUNGER GENERATION, HAVE MUCH RESPONSIBILITY.
Eiraku University Hospital Commencement
WHAT ARE WE DOCTORS IN THE FIRST PLACE?
WHAT IS IT THAT WE DOCTORS MUST DO?
GOOD MORNING
MORNING.

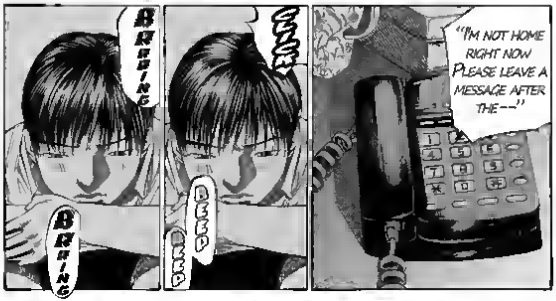
Hey, Miss Akagi--
are you having fun ignoring me?

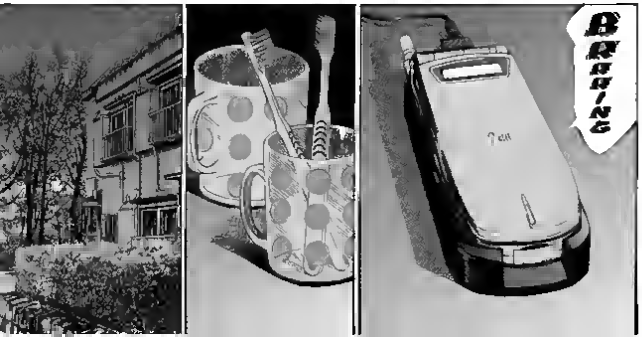
WHICH IS EXCEEDINGLY SEVERE AT PRESENT.
YET IT'S THE PATIENT'S STRONG PREFERENCE TO KNOW EVERYTHING.
I'VE ALREADY INFORMED THE PATIENT THAT HE HAS CANCER.
BUT BELIEVE HE SHOULDN'T BE TOLD EVERYTHING, INCLUDING HIS LIFE EXPECTANCY AND CONDITION.
Tens of thousands of cancer patients die every year without knowing the truth
Did a single doctor take responsibility for even one of those deaths?
He wouldn't be the only dead patient.
WOULD YOU TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IF HE KILLED HIMSELF?
THAT WOULD ONLY LEAD TO DESPAIR.


TAKE CARE OF YOUR-SELF!
WE'LL SEE YOU IN TEN DAYS.

DOCT OR...
YOU HAVE SUCH A LOVELY SMILE NOW.

BRRRING
BRRRING


BRRRING
BRRRING
CLICK
BEEP
"I'M NOT HOME RIGHT NOW. PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE--"


BRRRING

I'M SORRY.
I CALLED AND CALLED AND YOU DIDN'T PICK UP. I GOT WORRIED.
DING-DONG
DING-DONG
REALLY?
I WAS SLEEP-ING.
YEAH

What is "fun", anyway?
What is "sad"?

And tell me...
How do I cry, again?
APRIL'S RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER.
WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO THIS TIME?
BOY, I SURE DO ENVY YOU.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WATCH MRS. TSUJIMOTO WASTE AWAY.

I'm an outsider...
ER...
WHY CAN'T WE USE AN UNAP-PROVED DRUG?
THERE'S REALLY NO RULE SAYING WE CAN'T.
LISTEN, SAITO...

IF A DRUG ISN'T APPROVED,
THE GOVERNMENT HASN'T OKAYED IT FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE.
IT JUST MEANS NATIONAL HEALTH AND OTHER INSURANCE WON'T PAY FOR IT.
THE ACTUAL USE OF AN UNAPPROVED DRUG IS NOT ILLEGAL.
SO IF WE DON'T GO THROUGH INSURANCE,
WE CAN USE AN UNAPPROVED DRUG?
PRETTY MUCH.
IF THE PATIENT BEARS 100% OF THE TREATMENT COSTS,
THERE'S NO DRUG A DOCTOR CAN'T USE.

THEN--
THE HOSPITAL CAN IMPORT THE DRUG DIRECTLY.
SO IT WOULDN'T BE TOO HARD TO OBTAIN IT.
LOOK, IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.
FIRST OF ALL, IT COSTS MONEY.
$10,000 A MONTH WOULD BE NOTHING.

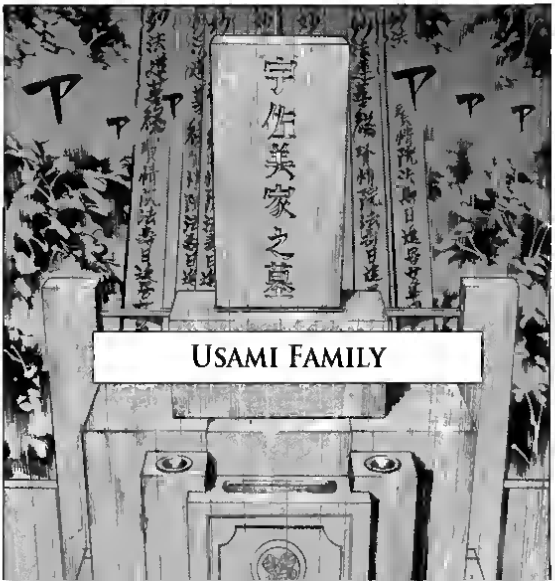
I MEAN, HER LIFE LITERALLY DEPENDS ON IT!
BUT IF THEY SOLD THEIR HOUSE, TOOK OUT A LOAN...
LISTEN TO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.
DO YOU REALIZE HOW RUTH-LESS YOU SOUND?

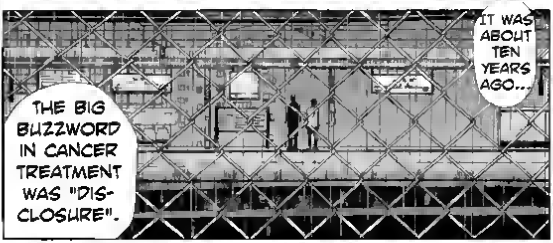
Hey, Usami—
Why don't you loosen the ties on my hands?
Hold your hand out, Doctor
Yes, just like that

Big hands..
It's something I heard once.
Doctors with big hands
will be good doctors one day.

What are these hands for?
Is choosing to do nothing really just helpless-ness?

宇佐美
宇佐美
Noriko Usami - Age 24


宇佐美家之墓
Usami Family

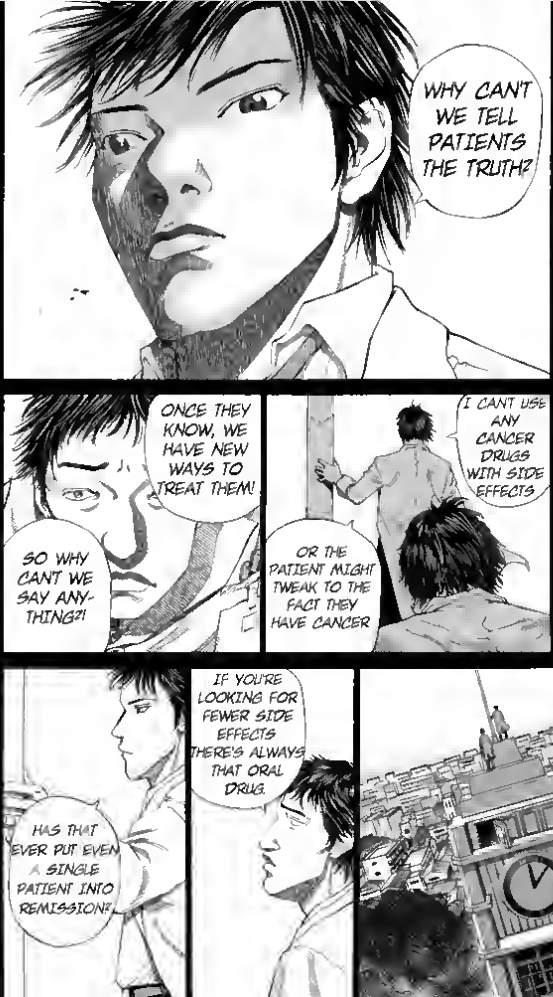

IT WAS ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO...
THE BIG BUZZWORD IN CANCER TREATMENT WAS "DISCLOSURE".

DO WE TELL PATIENTS THEY HAVE CANCER, OR DON'T WE?

THERE WERE STILL NO DISCLOSURE-BASED REGIMENS TO SPEAK OF.
THAT'S WHAT IT WAS LIKE BACK THEN...

#53
A Doctor's Job

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SHOJI?
GET BACK HERE!
IT'S ALL ROTTEN
SHOJI
COME HOME RIGHT NOW!


WHY CAN'T WE TELL PATIENTS THE TRUTH?
ONCE THEY KNOW, WE HAVE NEW WAYS TO TREAT THEM!
SO WHY CAN'T WE SAY ANY-THING?!
I CAN'T USE ANY CANCER DRUGS WITH SIDE EFFECTS
OR THE PATIENT MIGHT TWEAK TO THE FACT THEY HAVE CANCER
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR FEWER SIDE EFFECTS THERE'S ALWAYS THAT ORAL DRUG.
HAS THAT EVER PUT EVEN A SINGLE PATIENT INTO REMISSION?

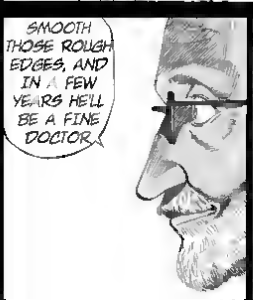
I'M POSITIVE THAT WILL LET ME PROVIDE BETTER TREATMENT
I WANT TO TELL PATIENTS EVERYTHING
WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP HERE, ANYWAY?
AND THAT ASSHOLE PROFESSOR--YOU KNOW WHAT HE SAID?
I WAS BEING SERIOUS WHEN I MADE THAT APPEAL
TO SWITCH OVER TO A FULL-DISCLOSURE POLICY
"ONLY THE SMALLEST FRACTION OF CANCER IS CURABLE."
"THUS OUR JOB IS NOT TO CURE CANCER, BUT TO HIDE IT."

IF WE TELL THEM, WE PUT OURSELVES OUT OF A JOB.
I'M AGAINST FULL DISCLOSURE MYSELF.
IT'S ROUGH TO LIVE YOUR LIFE WHILE YOU'RE STARING DOWN DEATH.
NOT EVERY PATIENT IS THAT STRONG.
YOU'VE BEEN BRAINWASHED, USAMI.
CANCER DOESN'T EQUAL DEATH.

HEY
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
T O K
PISS ON THIS WHOLE ROTTEN, STINKING WORLD!
LOOK, RAIN-BOW!
YOU IDIOT! STOP THAT!
WHOA!

WE'LL OVERLOOK THIS INCIDENT
YOU MAY LEAVE

DR SHOJI,
I GREATLY VALUE YOUR ABILITY


SMOOTH THOSE ROUGH EDGES, AND IN A FEW YEARS HE'LL BE A FINE DOCTOR

WHY DID YOU SIDE WITH HIM, PROFESSOR?
HE'S A BOOR

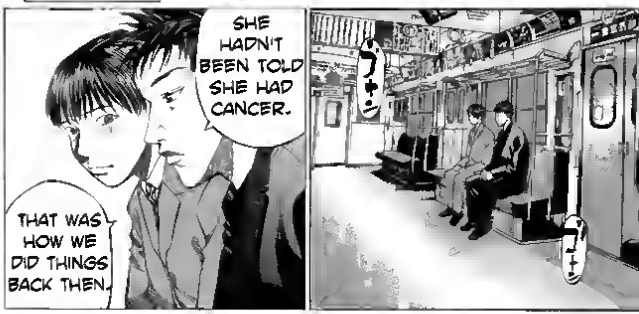
SO SORRY!

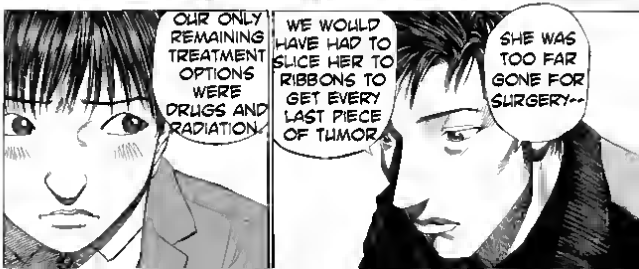
YOU'RE ALREADY A THIRD-YEAR.
TIME TO STOP RELYING ON YOUR SUPERIORS TO BAIL YOU OUT.
YES, SIR.
HA HA!
IT MUST BE LOVE!
I'M TELLING YOU, MY PULSE RACES WHENEVER I'M WITH YOU.
SHE WAS ADMITTED YESTERDAY.
NORIKO KODAMA, 23
HERE WE ARE

HELLO!
IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED JUST ASK THEM.
THEY'RE AT YOUR BECK AND CALL.
I'VE BROUGHT YOUR DOCTORS TO SEE YOU.
DR. SHOJI AND DR. USAMI.

HE'S A LITTLE OFF
DONT MIND HIM.
MARRY ME!
QUIT EMBARRASSING YOURSELF!
YOU DIDNT HAVE TO HIT ME!
IT'S ALREADY MOVED INTO HER LUNGS AND LYMPH NODES.
MISS KODAMA HAS STAGE IV PANCREATIC CANCER.

I GIVE HER
ゴトン
ゴトン
SIX MONTHS, TOPS.

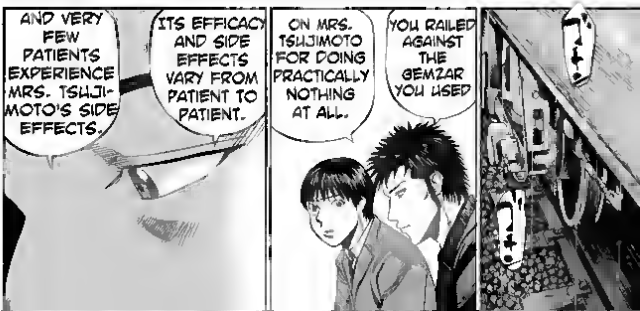

SHE HADN'T BEEN TOLD SHE HAD CANCER.
THAT WAS HOW WE DID THINGS BACK THEN.
ゴトン
ゴトン


OUR ONLY REMAINING TREATMENT OPTIONS WERE DRUGS AND RADIATION.
WE WOULD HAVE HAD TO SLICE HER TO RIBBONS TO GET EVERY LAST PIECE OF TUMOR.
SHE WAS TOO FAR GONE FOR SURGERY--

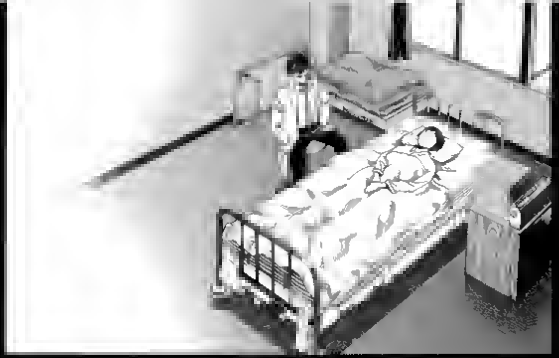
AS TIME WENT ON, WE NEVER DID GIVE HER CANCER DRUGS.
WE STARTED HER ON RADIATION RIGHT AWAY.
BUT
WHY NOT?
BACK THEN,
NO PROMISING DRUGS FOR PANCREATIC CANCER HAD BEEN APPROVED.

ONE DRUG IN THE WHOLE WORLD HAD THE ABILITY TO FIGHT PANCREATIC CANCER.
PANCREATIC CANCER WAS INFAMOUS FOR BEING SO DIFFICULT.

GEMZAR.


AND VERY FEW PATIENTS EXPERIENCE MRS. TSUJIMOTO'S SIDE EFFECTS.
ITS EFFICACY AND SIDE EFFECTS VARY FROM PATIENT TO PATIENT.
ON MRS. TSUJIMOTO FOR DOING PRACTICALLY NOTHING AT ALL.
YOU RAILED AGAINST THE GEMZAR YOU USED

THIS GEMZAR
WAS A RELIABLE LIGHT SHINING ON PANCREATIC CANCER PATIENTS.
BUT AS I'VE SAID BEFORE,
GEMZAR DIDN'T HAVE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT APPROVAL AT THE TIME.
ALL WE COULD DO
WAS SIT WITH HER, POWERLESS.



What can I do?
It's such a small company
SERI-OUSLY?
YOU GOT FIRED FOR TAKING A MONTH OFF TO BE IN THE HOSPITAL!?

Um
when can I be dis-charged?

I'd like to work again
I mean, it's kind sad, isn't it?
It's like nobody needs me
HEY!
YO, USA-MAN!
I BROUGHT YOU SOME HELP
USAMI!
HUH?

HE MIGHT NOT LOOK LIKE IT, BUT THIS DUDE'S A TOT. L SOFTY.
SEE THESE FLOWER-BEDS? ALL HIS HANDI-WORK.
Uh... sure.
DO YOU LIKE FLOWERS MISS KODAMA?
I'M KIND OF JEALOUS--I HAVE A HARD TIME TALKING TO PEOPLE.
HE'S A GOOD GUY, FOR ALL THAT
I DIDN'T MEAN TO BE A BOTHER
I'M SORRY.
Wah...

HEY, USAMI.
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT HER?
SHOT BAR
HUH?
H...
THINK WE SHOULD JUST KEEP THIS UP?

MAYBE WE COULD TRY GEMZAR.
NO WAY!
IT HASN'T BEEN APPROVED HERE YET!

WE CAN'T DO IT, SHOJI.
THE PROFESSOR WILL NEVER GIVE US PERMISSION TO USE GEMZAR
WE CAN PERSUADE HIM.
IT'S RIDICULOUS TO THINK THERE'S A GOOD DRUG THAT WE CAN'T
WE'RE DOCTORS--

#54
The Other Saito
And I
trust my doctor's instincts.

THE PATIENT IS NORIKO KODAMA, 73
SHE HAS STAGE IV PANCREATIC CANCER
IT'S ALREADY METASTASIZED THROUGHOUT HER BODY SURGERY IS NOT INDICATED
SHE IS PRESENTLY TAKING ORAL CANCER DRUGS, BUT WITH NO REDUCTION IN TUMOR SIZE
SIR,
IF THIS KEEPS UP, SHE'LL BE DEAD IN A FEW MONTHS

PLEASE LET US USE GEMZAR.
MUR MUR
MU RM UR
GEMZAR IS A PANCREATIC CANCER DRUG THAT OBTAINED APPROVAL IN AMERICA ONE YEAR AGO.
IT SUPPRESSES THE ASSOCI-ATED PAIN, LETHARGY, AND WEIGHT LOSS
DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF DRUG THIS GEMZAR IS
DR SHOJI?

IN ADDITION, WE HAVE PRACTICALLY NO EXPECTATION
THAT HER CURRENT ORAL MEDICATION WILL SHRINK HER TUMORS
IT PROVIDES NOTICEABLY GREATER RELIEF OF SYMPTOMS AND LONGER LIFE
THAN THE ORAL MEDICATION WE'RE USING NOW
IF WE USE GEMZAR,
THERE'S A POSSIBILITY HER TUMORS WILL SHRINK
That's not it...
The problem is, the drug hasn't been approved.
IF THERE'S A BETTER DRUG OUT THERE,
I BELIEVE WE SHOULD USE IT

AS YOU KNOW,
GEMZAR HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED FOR USE IN JAPAN
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN ITS USE HAS BEEN PROHIBITED
BECAUSE IT'S UNAPPROVED, INSURANCE WON'T COVER IT.
IF A DOCTOR EXPRESSES THE DESIRE,
HE CAN USE AN UNAPPROVED DRUG.
They know all that already!
Who's gonna pay for all this — that's the issue here!

AND WHO'S GOING TO PAY FOR THIS,
DR SHOJI?
HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK IT WILL COST?
WE'RE TALKING THOUSANDS, EVERY MONTH.
THE PATIENT WILL

WHEN THE PATIENT CAN NO LONGER PAY,
DR USAMI AND I WILL, FROM OUR OWN POCKETS

I DONT GET IT
WHY WOULD YOU TWO NEED TO SHOULDER DRUG COSTS FOR THIS PATIENT?
I'M A DOCTOR
WHEN DOCTORS DO SOMETHING FOR THEIR ATIENTS
THEY DON'T NEED A REASON

So this is a doctor's instincts.
MUR MUR
MUR MUR
MUR MUR

I SEE
YOU'RE A LOT LIKE ME WHEN I WAS YOUNGER

I COULD HANDLE ALL OF THE TEDIOUS WORK, LIKE IMPORT PROCEDURES.
UH...ER
THIS ALONE IS THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE BEHIND ALL OF US DOCTORS
MEDICINE IS THE ART OF COMPASSION

YOU BE QUIET
BY THE WAY, DR SHOJI,
ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE TERM "MIXED TREATMENT"?
MIXED TREATMEN
USES METHODS THAT ARE COVERED BY INSURANCE AND THOSE THAT AREN'T
I'M WELL AWARE!
IT'S EXTREMELY COMMON AMONG DENTISTS AND THE LIKE!

DRILLING A CAVITY IS COVERED AND BILLED TO INSURANCE.
BUT FANCY DENTURES AREN'T, SO THE PATIENT COVERS 100% OF THAT COST
TAKING MONEY FROM A PATIENT FOR A DRUG THAT'S NOT COVERED, THEN PURSUING A DIFFERENT TREATMENT WITH INSURANCE?
THAT'S MIXED TREATMENT
AND UNFORTUNATELY,
MIXED TREATMENT IS AGAINST THE LAW.
FOR SOME REASON,
DENTISTS HAVE LONG BEEN AN EXCEPTION

THOSE ARE THE RULES.
I KNOW MIXED TREAT-MENT IS ILLEGAL
BUT...
AS LONG AS YOU USE INSURANCE WITH ANOTHER TREATMENT,
WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO IS AGAINST THE LAW.

I knew it wouldn't work
So we just can't use any unapproved drug...
THEN WE SHOULDN'T USE INSURANCE AT ALL
AND THE COST OF ALL OTHER TREATMENT--BYPASSING INSURANCE COMPLETELY
THE PATIENT WILL PAY 100% OF THE GEMZAR COST

C'MON, SHOJI
HOW MUCH IS ALL THAT GOING TO COST?
THEN IT'S NOT MIXED TREATMENT.
IT'S SELF-PAY, AND IT'S PERFECTLY LEGAL.
CAN'T KEEP COMING UP WITH THAT KIND OF MONEY!
MISS KODAMA'S ONLY 25.
WAY MORE THAN A FEW THOUSAND A MONTH!
WE'RE TALKING MORE LIKE TEN--OR EVEN TWENTY!
DO YOU WANT TO HELP HER OR NOT!?

WHY ARE YOU ALL ACTING
LIKE THIS IS SOMEONE ELSE'S PROBLEM?
I'M NOT PARTICULARLY OPPOSED TO YOUR USING GEMZ, R
THAT IS, IF THE PATIENT PAYS FOR ALL OF HER TREATMENT HERSELF

LET'S GO, USAMI
HEY WAIT!
?!
NOW DO YOU SEE
DR. SHOJI?
KEEP COMING UP WITH ALL THESE TREATMENTS
AND YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO KEEP HER IN THE DARK
DO YOU HAVE IT IN YOU?
TO TELL HER
SLAM
EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW?

Say, Doctor.
next time let's grow some pansies in with these azaleas.

MISS KODAMA...
YOU HAVE CANCER
STAGE IV PANCREATIC CANCER
IT'S ALL THROUGH YOUR BODY, AND WE CAN'T OPERATE.
IF WE DO NOTHING,
YOU HAVE MAYBE A 50-50 CHANCE OF LIVING SIX MORE MONTHS.

THERE'S ALMOST NO POSSIBILITY OF CURING IT COMPLETELY.
AND NO HOPE OF BEING ABLE TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL
BUT...
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO LIVE?

WHY WOULD YOU TELL HER SHE HAS CANCER?
WE NEEDED TO TELL HER
SO WE COULD PROCEED WITH TREATMENT
WE...
WE HAVE A DUTY...TO TREAT HER.
SHE'S NOT THAT STRONG...
WHY DID YOU TELL HER?

WHAT GAVE YOU DOCTORS
THE RIGHT TO HURT PEOPLE LIKE THAT!?

#55 The First Patient

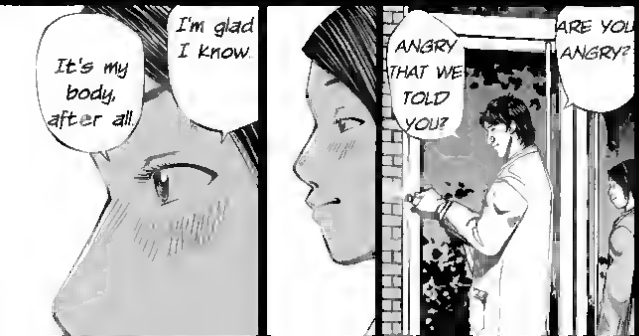
101
NORIKO KODAMA
slam
EOK
EOK
THAT MAN JUST NOW?
WHO WAS THAT?

My ex-boyfriend
I just got dumped.
"If I wait for you, you won't be able to concentrate on your treatment."
That's some weird logic
Doctor
Tell me again

Do I have cancer?
Is it really true...
that I hav late-stage pancreatic cancer and six months
YES

THERE'S A DRUG CALLED GEMZAR, UNAPPROVED IN JAPAN
WE CAN IMPORT THAT AND TREAT YOU WITH IT
BUT IT WILL COST A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY
OF COURSE, WE CAN ALSO CONTINUE WITH RADIATION AND ORAL MEDICATION.
OR...YOU CAN GO HOME
AND NOT RECEIVE ANY TREATMENT AT ALL.

It's so strange...
I can still see, hear...feel...


I'm glad I know.
It's my body, after all.
ANGRY THAT WE TOLD YOU?
ARE YOU ANGRY?

My parents have called every day since then.
Even though I'm right here
Even though they could come and see me.
Every day they call me and cry
Even though
I'm still alive...

WE'RE DOING
EVERYTHING WE CAN FOR YOU
MOST LIKELY
WE'LL HAVE THE DRUG WITHIN TWO WEEKS
THE IMPORT PROCESS FOR THE GEMZAR
SHOULD BE DONE SOMETIME THIS WEEK.
Why won't you look me in the eye,
Doctor?

Look at me.
Please.

Doctor
I have $30,000
I figured I'd use it once I got married or something
I've been saving up forever
I
I want to live.

AFTER ALL,
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING YET
SO...
SHE ACTUALLY TOLD YOU SHE WANTS TO LIVE?
UH-HUH
I JUST WASN'T PREPARED I GUESS
THE REASON WE HAVEN'T BEEN TELLING PATIENTS EVERYTHING
HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH CONCERN FOR THEM

PEOPLE ARE STRONG-
WAY STRONGER THAN DOCTORS THINK
SHES STRONG-
WAY STRONGER THAN ME
WE'RE IN THE RIGHT
AND WE'LL PROVE IT TO THEM
USA MI
WE'LL SHOW 'EM,
DISCLOSURE IS THE WAY TO GO!
BEYOND THAT LIES HOPE!

Gemzar
Gemzar

Here we go...
GOING BY THE DATA, WE SEE THAT
COMPARED TO OTHER DRUGS, GEMZAR INCREASES LIFESPAN BY AN AVERAGE OF 3 MORE MONTHS
BUT IT MAY NOT NECESSARILY WORK, EITHER
IT'S EFFECTIVE IN ONLY 30% OF ALL PATIENTS
WE CAN'T GUARANTEE
YOU'LL BE IN THAT 30%.

JUST AS YOU'VE GIVEN US STRENGTH,
WE'LL DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER FOR YOU.
MISS KODAMA,
YOU'RE A STRONG PERSON
PLIP
ｶﾀﾀﾝ
ｶﾀﾀﾝ
ｶﾀﾀﾝ

!!
PIIP
PIIP
Strong, huh?
PIIP

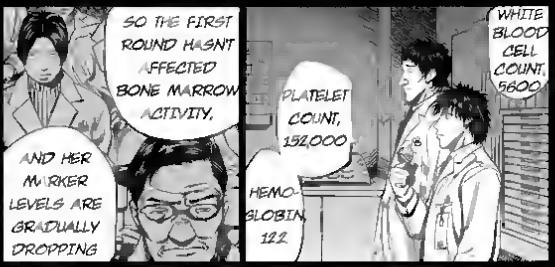
Am I really that strong?
Let's break up.
I don't want to be a burden.
I'm sorry, honey.
I'm sorry I couldn't do anything.
Are people really that strong?

C'mon,
look at me.
plipipipip
Don't just write me off.
Stop looking at me like I'm a ghost...

I am
alive.

THE GEMZAR HAS CAUSED NO NOTICEABLE SIDE EFFECTS SO FAR.
YOUR PROGRESS HAS BEEN PERFECT
EVEN YOUR TUMOR MARKER LEVELS HAVE BEEN STEADILY DROPPING
WE CAN'T BE CERTAIN UNTIL WE DO A CT,
BUT YOUR TUMORS ARE PROBABLY SHRINKING
WE'RE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN.

#56
What Do You Really Want?


SO THE FIRST ROUND HASN'T AFFECTED BONE MARROW ACTIVITY.
AND HER MARKER LEVELS ARE GRADUALLY DROPPING
PLATELET COUNT, 152,000
WHITE BLOOD CELL COUNT, 5600
HEMO-GLOBIN 122

NO ISSUES BETWEEN DOCTOR AND PATIENT
DISCLO-SURE HAS CAUSED

WHAT IS IT?
ARE THE TEST RESULTS IN!?
LAB 1
RUN!
RUN!
RUN!
H...
H...
LOOK AT THIS, USAMI!
HER MARKER LEVELS HAVE DROPPED AGAIN!
DOES THIS MEAN WHAT I THINK IT MEANS?
THE MORE TESTS WE DO, THE MORE SHE FEELS THE PINCH
I KNOW, I KNOW
SO SHES PAYING 100% OF THE TREATMENT AND LAB COSTS
REMEMBER MISS KODAMA IS ON A SELF-PAY SYS
AREN'T WE RUNNING TOO MANY TESTS, THOUGH?

ISN'T THIS FANTASTIC?
THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULD BE THIS METICULOUS, EH?
WE DON'T HAVE DATA FOR ITS USE ON JAPANESE PATIENTS
BUT THIS DRUG IS STILL UNAPPROVED IN JAPAN
HEY!
WE DON'T KNOW FOR SURE THAT THE TUMORS ARE ANY SMALLER.
WHY BOTHER BLATHERING ABOUT ALL THAT CRAP?
INSURANCE NO INSURANCE, APPROVED OR NOT--
WE'RE FREE!

WE'LL MAKE A NEW WORLD!

WE'LL SMASH RIGHT THROUGH THEIR STUPID RULES!

FLIP

Gemzar

Doctor
are you two in charge of any other patients here in the hospital?
HUH?
WELL, IT'S A PRETTY BIG HOSPITAL, SO...
MAYBE TEN EACH?
And are you this nice
to all your other patients, too?
Or am I the only one
for whom you go to all these lengths?

I GUESS YOU ARE
WE HAVENT TOLD OUR OTHER PATIENTS THEY HAVE CANCER
WE CANT DISCUSS USING AN UNAPPROVED DRUG, LIKE WE DID WITH YOU
YOU CANT TALK ABOUT CANCER DRUGS WITH SOMEONE WHO DOESNT KNOW THEY HAVE CANCER
AND IF THEY DON'T KNOW, WE CAN'T DO MUCH FOR THEM.
WE TELL THEM IT'S ULCERS, SAY.
IF THEY HAVE STOMACH CANCER,
YOU HAVE TO KEEP LYING TO THEM.

IT'S HARD
WHEN LATE-STAGE PATIENTS ASK WHEN THEY CAN GO HOME
YOU DREAD EVEN STOPPING BY THEIR ROOMS
EXACTLY.
MISS KODAMA.
WE'VE TOLD YOU YOUR DIAGNOSIS WE'RE NOT HIDING A SINGLE THING.
YOU CAN ASK US ANYTHING
Why?

why did you only tell me?
Then why--

AND AFTER WE'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD FOR HER
GEEZ, DID SHE HAVE TO PUT IT LIKE THAT?

Did we do something wrong?

She said
she wanted to live, didn't she?
IT'S DROP-PING

BONE MARROW SUPPRESSION?
WHITE BLOOD CELLS ARE AT 2300, 32% NEUTROPHILS
EVERYTHING'S LESS NOW THAN BEFORE WE STARTED HER ON GEMZAR
FEWER WHITE BLOOD CELL
PLATELET
POSSIBLE INFECTION
IF WE KEEP GIVING HER THIS DRUG, WORSE COMES TO WORST..
IF HER BONE MARROW'S SUPPRESSED WE CAN'T KEEP GIVING HER GEMZAR
WHAT DO WE DO?
gulp

Miss Kodama
...will die.
G-CSF Drug that stimulates bone marrow into producing more white blood cells
LET'S DO G-CSF* RIGHT AWAY
ONCE WE CAN FIX HER BONE MARROW SUPPRESSION, WE SHOULD START HER ON IT AGAIN
SHIT
JUST WHEN EVERYTHING WAS GOING SO WELL
FOR NOW. THE GEMZAR REGIMEN
IS ON HOLD

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE GEMZAR'S ON HOLD
WHAT HAPPENS IF WE KEEPING GIVING HER THE DRUG ANYWAY?
THERE SHOULD BE SOMETHING IN THE OVERSEAS LITERATURE
SHOJI?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING,

WE STOPPED THE DRUG OUT OF CONCERN FOR MISS KODAMA.
REMEMBER, SHE MIGHT DIE
I CAN'T JUST GIVE UP
IF THE GEMZ R DOESN'T WORK MISS KODAMA HAS NO CHANCE
IT'S SIX OF ONE
Shoji...
what are you trying to do here?
AND THE CANCER MIGHT COME BACK WITH A VENGEANCE
STOP THE DRUG.

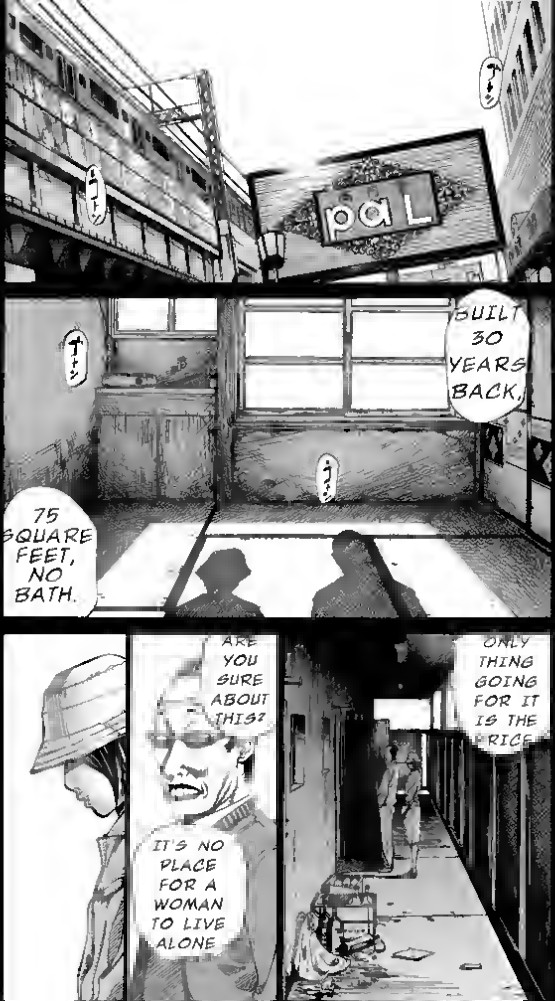
Aren't you just trying
to create a precedent showing unapproved drugs are effective?
Choose one
A,
CONTINUE THE GEMZAR, AWARE OF THE RISKS
OR B,
STOP THE GEMZAR ALTOGETHER AND PRAY MISS KODAMA'S CANCER DOESN'T GET ANY BIGGER

I...
I JUST WANT HER TO LIVE
SO DO I
SHE'S STRONG...
IT'LL BE FINE

Ó
R
I
P
Gemzar

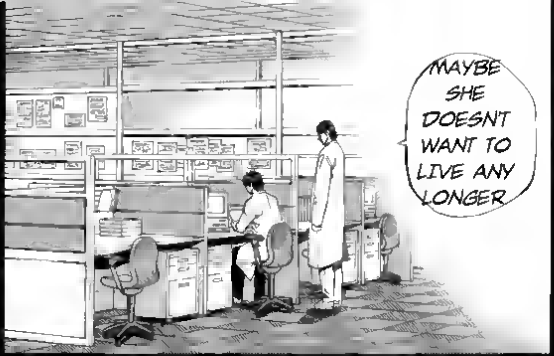
SOON WE'LL SEE HOW THIS TREATMENT'S WORKING.
IF YOUR TUMORS ARE ANY SMALLER
WE'LL GET YOU IN FOR A CT SCAN SOMETIME NEXT WEEK
If they are,
what does that mean?
If the cancer cells shrink,
does it mean they're not completely gone?

Even if I do live longer,
does that mean I'll still die?
I wish I'd never known.
I'd've been better off
if you'd never told me...


ガタン
ゴトン
pal
ガタン
BUILT 30 YEARS BACK.
ウッ
75 SQUARE FEET, NO BATH.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
IT'S NO PLACE FOR A WOMAN TO LIVE ALONE
ONLY THING GOING FOR IT IS THE RICE

#57
Something Overlooked

WHERE DID YOU GO YESTERDAY?
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN THE FIRST TIME
YOU WENT OUT SINCE YOU'VE BEEN HERE
YOU HAVE DECREASED BONE MARROW ACTIVITY--
THAT MAKES YOU PRONE TO INFECTIONS
BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU DO GO OUT, OKAY?


MAYBE SHE DOESN'T WANT TO LIVE ANY LONGER

DON'T BE STUPID
OF COURSE SHE DOES--AS LONG AS THERE AREN'T ANY BAD SIDE EFFECTS

SHOJI...
DID WE DO THE RIGHT THING?
SHOULD WE
HAVE KEPT HER IN THE DARK?

LOOK AT THIS
WE WON THIS GAMBLE
KEEPING HER ON GEMZAR WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE
HER WHITE BLOOD CELLS AND PLATELETS ARE HOLDING STEADY.
BE HAPPY--
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THAT!
WE'VE KEPT THIS UNAPPROVED, UNKNOWN DRUG IN CHECK,
SUPPRESSING SIDE EFFECTS, FOR A WHOLE MONTH.

I'M SORRY
BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN DO THIS WITH YOU ANYMORE
THIS IS NO TIME TO GET COLD FEET
WE WERE RIGHT TO TELL HER
IF YOU HAD YOUR DOUBTS WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO WHEN WE STARTED?
I JUST
WANT MISS KODAMA TO LIVE

OH, DO YOU, NOW
THEN WHY DON'T YOUR OTHER PATIENTS KNOW?
YOU MUST NOT CARE IF THEY DIE
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, ANYWAY!?
LET ME TELL YOU THE ONLY SUREFIRE WAY TO CURE METASTASIZED OR RECURRING CANCER
KILL THE PATIENT
DO THAT AND THE CANCER CELLS DIE, TOO

BUT WE'RE NOT UP AGAINST CANCER HERE.
WE'RE UP AGAINST MISS KODAMA.

WHIRR
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
AS THE PATIENT, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE YOUR METHOD OF CARE
I DONT THINK IT'S MEANINGLESS TO EXTEND YOUR LIFE.
BUT, MISS KODAMA,

YOU'D HAVE ABOUT A 40% CHANCE OF BEING ALIVE IN A YEAR
IT ADDS AN AVERAGE OF 10 MONTHS TO YOUR LIFE
WHEN GEMZAR IS EFFECTIVE IN THAT WAY,
BUT WITH THE ORAL DRUGS YOU WERE TAKING BEFORE,
THAT CHANCE DROPS BELOW 4%
I'll go home.

It's a really tiny apartment,
but I figure I'll move out of my folks' house and give it a shot
I found a place
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO DIE, YOU'RE MISTAKEN
YOU JUST CAN'T SNEAK OFF TO DIE ALONE!
WHY STOP TREAT-MENT NOW?
WHY?
What is living, anyway?

Answer me.
If you can't give me an answer,
why are you even a doctor?

ゲームラ
平成文学園

I've been living my life so earnestly
Thought I'd never done anything wrong
I never thought of much besides
"Take life seriously and you'll do fine."
Maybe that's where I messed up

公衆浴場

ガイ
小池友之
設置反対!!
カラン
コロン

ミ

YOUR CANCER
IT'S GETTING SMALLER
YOUR CT SCANS JUST CAME BACK I BROUGHT THEM OVER
WOULD LIVING LONGER BE MEANINGFUL TO YOU?
A FEW MONTHS IS ENOUGH
FOR YOU TO START SEEING MEANING THERE?
I CAN'T SAY. BUT DON'T YOU THINK...

Doctor,
do you know how terrifying it is,
living your life knowing death is right around the corner?
Even if I could live just a tiny bit longer,
of course, of course I'd want to
Of course I want to live
But what's the point of a longer life
when the tradeoff is this fear of death?

I'm happy
Hearing that my cancer's shrinking
I am happy
I...
Happy but scared
I'm not that strong..
Scared but happy

I BOUGHT A FEW THINGS
IT MAKES UP FOR ALWAYS COMING OVER EMPTY-HANDED
SORRY
I WASN'T REALLY SURE WHAT I SHOULD BUY
DOCTOR
DO YOU HAVE SOME TIME TODAY?

#58
Second-Person, Third-Person

ホテル
南極
MISS KODAMA.
WHY DON'T YOU COME BACK TO THE HOSPITAL?
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF I DID?
GIVE ME CANCER DRUGS AGAIN?

BEING HERE CALMS ME
I MEAN, WE FINALLY HIT ON A DRUG THAT WORKED
IF WE DO NOTHING THE CANCER WILL ONLY PROGRESS.
I CAN'T BE ANYTHING BUT A CANCER PATIENT
WHEN I'M WITH MY FOLKS OR AT THE HOSPITAL
AS IT HAPPENS I HAVE MY DOUBTS ABOUT CANCER DRUGS TOO
I GUESS SO

EVEN IF A DRUG DOES MANAGE TO SHRINK A TUMOR,
IT'S NOT EFFECTIVE IF THE PATIENT WILL SETTLE FOR NOTHING LESS THAN A TOTAL CURE
WE DOCTORS
ARE TOO QUICK TO SAY THEY'RE EFFECTIVE AGAINST CANCER
ONLY THE PATIENT CAN SAY
IF A DRUG WORKS OR NOT
MISS OD
EARLIER YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO LIVE

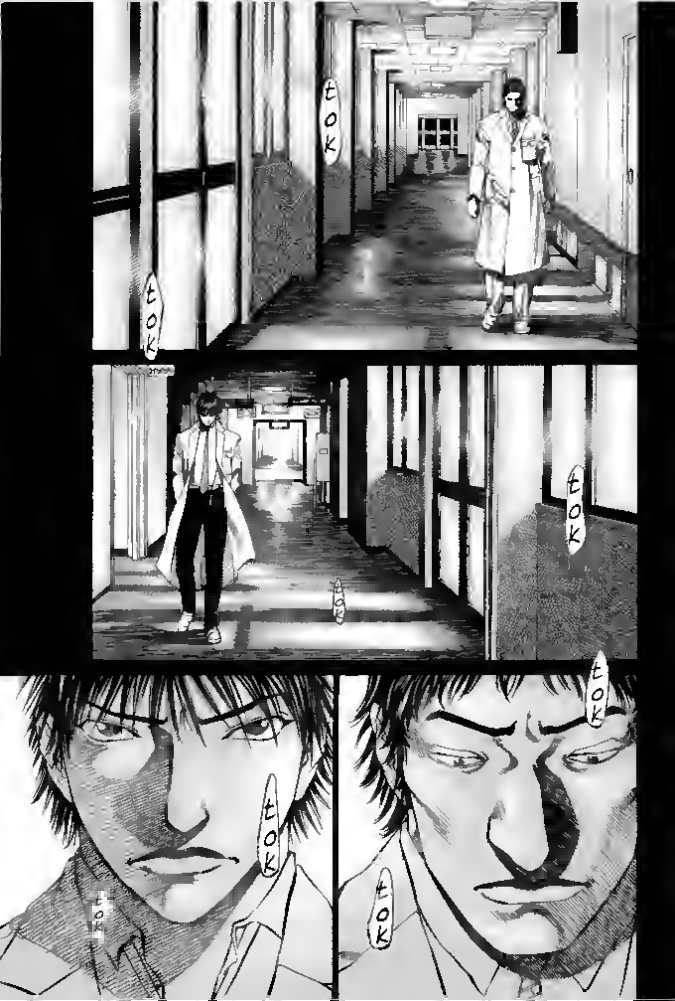
I'M LOOKING AT YOU NOW, ALIVE
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE
WONT YOU COME BACK?
I'LL BE BEHIND YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY
THEN YOU CAN COME BACK HERE
JUST 3 DAYS FOR A ROUND OF GEMZAR
YOU DONT HAVE TO STAY LONG

WHETHER YOU'RE HERE OR AT THE HOSPITAL,
I'LL COME RUNNING, DAY OR NIGHT.
WHY WOULD YOU DO ALL THAT JUST FOR ME?

TO DOCTORS PATIENTS ARE "HE" AND "SHE"
NOT "YOU".
OUR PROFESSOR TOLD US SOMETHING ONCE
"PATIENTS SHOULD BE IN THE THIRD PERSON"
PATIENTS ARE TO BE REFERRED TO IN THE THIRD PERSON,
NEVER IN THE SECOND PERSON, AS "YOU"
BUT THEN
LOOK AT THE WHOLE PICTURE
DONT FIXATE ON A SINGLE PATIENT
VIEWING ONE PATIENT AS SPECIAL
PUTS OTHER PATIENTS AT A DIS-ADVANTAGE

BUT WITH DIS-CLOSURE, THAT'S ALL WRONG
TELLING PATIENTS THE TRUTH
IS AN INTRUSION INTO THEIR LIVES
PLEA SE,
LET ME INTRUDE ON YOUR LIFE.

Gemzar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放射線治療棟
SO YOU'RE GIVING HER THE GEMZAR AFTER ALL.
I...
I LOVE HER.

Even-
tually
even
these
days have
to end

AS A RESULT OF USING THE UNAPPROVED DRUG GEMZAR,
YOUR TUMORS HAVE SHRUNK TO HALF THEIR SIZE.
MISS KODAMA,

YOUR TREATMENT FEES THIS MONTH
COME TO $23,450.
YOU'RE USING THE SELF-PAY TREATMENT OPTION.
WHICH MEANS YOU CAN'T USE ANY INSURANCE
ALL I CAN PAY IS $30,000
YOU'LL INCUR THESE COSTS EVERY MONTH
FOR AS LONG AS YOU CONTINUE WITH SELF-PAY

So now we just give up?
You fought so hard to get me back here--
is it all over?
I HAVE A SUGGES-TION
WE'LL KEE USING GEMZAR AS HAVE BE

WE WON'T LET THIS END JUST YET
USAMI AND I WILL PAY
WHATEVER PORTION YOU CAN'T AFFORD

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